

Application No.: 09/986,468
Attorney Docket No.: 021123-0282431

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application:

Claims 1-6 (Cancelled).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended) A vulcanized rubber compound comprising precipitated silica having the following physico-chemical properties:

BET surface area:	35 m^2/g to 350 m^2/g ;
BET/CTAB surface area ratio:	0.8 to 1.1;
pore volume, PV:	1.6 ml/g to 3.4 ml/g ;
Sears value (V_2):	6 to 20 ml $\text{ml}/(5 \text{ g})$;
average aggregate size:	250 nm to 1500 nm ;
CTAB surface area:	30 m^2/g to 350 m^2/g ;
DBP volume:	150 $\text{ml}/100 \text{ g}$ to 300 $\text{ml}/100 \text{ g}$;
V_2/V_1 by Hg porosimetry:	0.19 to 0.46; and
DBP/CTAB:	1.2 to 3.5.

Claim 8 (Cancelled).

Claim 9 (Previously Presented) The vulcanized rubber compound of claim 7, wherein the particle fineness of said precipitated silica is less than or equal to 11 μm .

Claim 10 (Previously Presented) The vulcanized rubber compound of claim 9, wherein the particle fineness of said precipitated silica is less than or equal to 10 μm .